

Title: Need to grant pensions to the surviving freedom-fighters of Naval Mutiny-Laid.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): The Government of India had declared the participants of Naval Mutiny as freedom fighters even though belatedly. But due to a categorization merely 507 out of around 20,000 sailors shunted out by the Britishers after Mutiny have been provided pension, so far. In order to project the mutiny as a token one, the Britishers sent out the sailors in thousands on the pretext of being demobed after the II World War while fresh recruitment in larger number was continued. In fact, it was camouflaged victimization of the bulk of the participants in the mutiny. Unfortunately the Government after independence did not take into consideration this fact while deciding on pension. As a result the bulk of the participants were left out. It is a fact that these aspirants went on demanding fruitlessly and presently only seventy of them are alive.

They had approached the High Court of Kerala, which gave a judgment in their favour on 21.02.2006. The claim of freedom fighters to sanction freedom fighter pension is still pending even after the Court verdict. This apathy is inhuman and unpatriotic.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to look into the matter and sanction the pension.